

Increasing health care coverage

Healthy People (HP) 2010 Leading Health Indicator 1-13

PHN contribution to _____ (county/city) Public Health Improvement Plan for 2002-____

Assessment:

In _____ (county/city), data from the county/city Health Survey (or other data source) for _____ year shows that _____ proportion of people under age 65 years were covered by health insurance.

Insert county/city data here that describes the proportion of people under age 65 years covered by health insurance showing the distribution by race, ethnic group, gender, immigration status, age, geographic area, etc.

The proportion of people under age 65 years covered by health insurance differs from or is similar to the state wide profile in the following ways:

Insert county/city/state comparison data here.

Describe the qualitative and quantitative factors that influence the proportion of people under age 65 years covered by health insurance in _____ (county/city). Aim to answer the question, "What are the factors that contribute to a low proportion of people under age 65 years being covered by health insurance among the _____ population in the county/city?"

Diagnosis:

NOTE: If the health department can promise improvement in the proportion of people under age 65 years covered by health insurance for everyone living in the county/city, then so state here. If there are no resources available to promise improvement in all, then under this heading describe in what way the proportion of people under age 65 years covered by health insurance is worse for different groups. For instance, it is _____% overall but _____% for children under age 15 (therefore the focus for improvement efforts is on these children).

Identifying Outcomes:

Outcome Objective

By (date)_____, there will be a _____% increase in the proportion of people under age 65 years covered by health insurance in the _____ population in _____ (county/city) from _____ % (county/city baseline for _____ year) to _____ %. (HP 2010 baseline of 83% in 1997, additional baseline percentages by ethnic group and gender available on page 1-13 in HP 2010 volume 1; HP 2010 target of 100%).

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Planning and Action:

Intermediate Objectives

[DEFINITION: Intermediate objectives link the outcome objectives to the process objectives. They describe the changes that will occur that ultimately result in or produce the desired outcome. They are precursors to attaining the outcome. Intermediate objectives have shorter time frames and clearly reflect what can be accomplished and measured within the time period of the program plan. Intermediate objectives assess measures, which have a high probability of reducing a health problem or increasing resiliency/capacity. These objectives measure the impact of specific interventions designed to achieve the outcome. Intermediate objectives measure changes in organizations, laws, policies, and power structures at the systems level, changes in community norms, attitudes, awareness, beliefs, practices, and behavior at the community level, and knowledge, attitude, beliefs, values, skills, circumstances, behaviors, and practices at the individual/family level.]

The following are examples of possible/suggested Intermediate Objectives related to increasing the proportion of people under age 65 covered by health insurance built on evidence-based strategies identified through a search in the Healthy People 2010 Information Access Project website at <http://nnlm.gov/partners/hp/>.

1. By (date)_____, at least _____ (#) prominent retailers in _____ (county/city) will have agreements established to provide educational materials to the _____ population on qualification for low-cost or free healthcare coverage.
2. By (date)_____, there will be a ____% increase in awareness among the uninsured _____ population in _____ (county/city) on qualifications for low-cost or free healthcare coverage, as evidenced by _____.
3. By (date)_____, there will be a ____% increase in awareness among the uninsured _____ population in _____ (county/city) on health care benefits offered through various government funded healthcare coverage programs, as evidenced by _____.
4. By (date)_____, there will be a ____% decrease in those who lose coverage due to complicated procedures and paperwork needed to establish continued eligibility among the _____ population in _____ (county/city), as evidenced by _____.
5. By (date)_____, there will be an effective system in place in _____ (county/city) to notify participants in government funded healthcare coverage programs of renewal requirements, and premium payment requirements if applicable, as evidenced by _____.
6. By (date)_____, there will be an effective system in place in _____ (county/city) to eliminate _____ (#) barriers for enrollment for eligible participants, as evidenced by _____.

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Using one of the above examples, the following is a demonstration of how the process extends from the Intermediate Objective to the Process Objectives, which describe the Action/interventions.

EXAMPLE:

Intermediate Objective 1:

By (date)_____, at least _____ (#) prominent retailers in _____ (county/city) will have agreements established to provide educational materials to the _____ population on qualification for low-cost or free healthcare coverage.

Process Objective 1:

[DEFINITION: Process objectives are the methods of the intervention. They detail the specific tasks that will be carried out within a specified time frame. Process objectives describes the input; the means by which the intervention or strategy will be implemented. They include inputs, participation, and reactions.]

By (date)_____, PHNs will have identified at least _____ (#) prominent retailers that serve the _____ population in SPA ____ and established collaborative relationships with them in order to develop agreements to provide educational materials. (*Minnesota PHN Interventions: Collaboration; Community, Secondary and Tertiary prevention*)

Process Objective 2:

By (date)_____, PHNs will _____.

Process Objective 3:

By (date)_____, PHNs will _____.

And so on...

Under the direction of the local health department nursing director, additional relevant Intermediate Objectives should be developed that address the Outcome Objectives as well as specific Process Objectives that address each Intermediate Objective.

Ultimately, the Outcome Objective of increasing health care coverage among the population will *only be achieved if other disciplines and the community* contribute to identifying Intermediate and Process Objectives.

Evaluation

Each Process Objective and Intermediate Objective should have a mechanism to evaluate whether or not the objective was accomplished. This includes a mechanism to track progress toward achieving the Outcome Objective at regular intervals.